

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claim 5 AND AMEND claims 1-3 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A transmission apparatus, comprising:  
an aggregate-side interface unit coupled to an optical transmission line;  
a cross-connect unit which perform cross-connect with respect to a synchronized digital signal supplied from said aggregate-side interface unit; and  
a network signal processing unit which switches the synchronized digital signal in a unit of a network signal as the synchronized digital signal is supplied from said cross-connect unit, said network signal processing unit further comprising a flow monitoring and adjusting unit which monitors and adjusts an amount of flow of the synchronized digital signal supplied from said cross-connect unit.
2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said network signal processing unit ~~includes~~further comprises:  
a network signal extracting unit which extracts a network signal from the synchronized digital signal supplied from said cross-connect unit;  
a network signal switching unit which switches the extracted network signal; and  
a mapping unit which maps the network signal switched by said network signal switching unit onto a synchronized digital signal for transmission to said cross-connect unit.
3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a tributary-side interface unit, ~~which is connected to said cross-connect unit, and~~ which interfaces one of an asynchronous digital signal and a network signal.

4. (ORIGINAL) The transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said network signal processing unit further includes an add/drop unit which drops the network signal supplied from said network signal switching unit, and adds a network signal supplied from an exterior to said network signal switching unit.

5. (CANCELLED)

6. (ORIGINAL) The transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein said tributary-side interface unit extracts one of an asynchronous digital signal and a network signal from a synchronized digital signal supplied from said cross-connect unit for dropping to an exterior, and adds one of an asynchronous digital signal and a network signal supplied from the exterior.

7. (ORIGINAL) The transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said network signal processing unit performs ring switching in a LAN by use of a RPR (resilient packet ring) function.

8. (ORIGINAL) The transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the synchronized digital signal is one of an SONET signal and an SDH signal.

9. (ORIGINAL) The transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the network signal is a RPR signal.

10. (ORIGINAL) The transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said cross-connect unit and said network signal processing unit are connected through RPR signals.